

Shamir reaffirms 'new' stand

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Sunday reaffirmed his willingness to give the superpowers or the United Nations a role in launching Middle East peace talks, but stressed they could take no part in direct negotiations. In an hour-long meeting with Spain's Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez, Shamir reiterated his support for direct talks between Israel, Arab states and Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, but ruled out participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "He said Israel is willing to use the assistance of the two superpowers and the U.N. secretary-general, but on the condition they do not intervene in the negotiations," said Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner. Shamir had previously contended that international participants to the proposed Middle East peace conference would be biased against the Zionist state. Last Tuesday, however, Shamir told a group of visiting European parliamentarians that he would consider accepting a symbolic U.N. or superpower opening to peace talks. Arab states have called for active U.N. Security Council role in negotiations. Fernandez Ordóñez arrived in Israel Saturday.

Jordan Times

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Iraq to release 200 Iranian PoWs

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq has asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to arrange for the repatriation of 200 Iranian sick and wounded prisoners of war (PoWs), a Red Cross official said. Arnold Luethold, a deputy of the head of the Red Cross delegation, told the AP that Iraqi officials have asked them to prepare for the release of the Iranian PoWs and return them to Iran. "We think this is a humanitarian gesture which could help to resume the PoW exchange," he said. Luethold said preparations are underway to charter a plane in Switzerland to take the prisoners from Iraq to Iran. The Red Cross official confirmed that the Iraqis have not asked for any Iraqi PoWs in exchange for the Iranians.

Prague police break up crowd

PRAGUE (R) — Riot police attacked thousands of demonstrators with batons, teargas and water cannon Sunday, thwarting a commemoration of Jan Palach who burnt himself alive 20 years ago to protest against the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia. But after helmeted police with truncheons and alsatian dogs charged into Prague's Wenceslas Square, where the ceremony was to be held, more than 4,000 regrouped and marched through the city center shouting "Freedom, Freedom," "Long live Democracy" and "Truth will prevail." Most of central Prague was cordoned off by police. Armoured personnel carriers rumbled through the capital, tear-gas was sprayed into an underground station where demonstrators had fled and witnesses said a West German television crew was beaten up.

Israelis panic at 'premier's suicide'

TEL AVIV (R) — Hundreds of anxious Israelis called state-owned Israel Radio after hearing excerpts from a play which convinced them that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had committed suicide. The Hadashot daily reported Sunday. The radio aired a scene Saturday from a new play "The Leak," in which an announcer breaks into the narrative and says: "We are obliged to interrupt this broadcast as the prime minister has committed suicide." Although the programme's presenter repeatedly stressed the bulletin was not genuine, hundreds of agitated listeners called the station asking for details, Hadashot said.

KGB seeks cooperation with West

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Radio Moscow statement rebroadcast here Sunday quoted a top Soviet KGB official as calling for coordination of anti-terror efforts with the United States, Britain and Israel. The unprecedented offer was attributed to Vitaly Ponomarev, deputy chief of the KGB security service. It was first aired by Radio Moscow's Hebrew-language division, "Peace and Progress," Saturday. The report was monitored and recorded by Israel Radio monitor Mickey Gordus and retransmitted on Israeli Radio Sunday. "We are willing, if there's a need, to cooperate even with the CIA, the British intelligence service and the Israeli Mossad and other (intelligence) services in the West," a Soviet announcer quoted Ponomarev as saying.

Iranian party applicants grow

NICOSIA (AP) — The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Sunday said that 28 groups had so far applied to form political parties under a new Iranian law announced Dec. 31. Quoting from the Farsi-language Ettelaat daily, IRNA, which is monitored in Nicosia, said that the Freedom Movement and the Mujahideen-e-Khalq movements were among the applicants.

Arab ministers to discuss medicine production

TUNIS (R) — Arab health ministers will meet in Libya in March to discuss cooperation in the production of medicines, an Arab League source said Sunday. The source told Reuters that Mahdi Mustapha Al Hedi, assistant secretary-general of the Arab League, was now in Tripoli to make arrangements for the conference from March 20 to 22.

Bomb threat on Olympic Airways

LARNACA (AP) — An Olympic Airways jumbo jet landed in Cyprus Sunday after a bomb threat aborted its flight from Athens to Bangkok, Thailand, airport sources said here. The sources said the flight OA 437, carried 421 passengers and crew. It left Athens at 0743 local (0543 GMT). About an hour later a message was phoned to Olympic Airways' office in Athens saying there was a bomb aboard the flight planted by the Nov. 17 Movement. The pilot was ordered by Olympic to land in Cyprus. Passengers and crew were taken off the plane 747 immediately after landing.

Faisal award goes to Egyptian

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabian Minister of Defence Prince Sultan has announced that the eighth and last winner of the King Faisal Foundation International Award for 1989 is Mohammad Al Gazzali, a 72-year-old Egyptian, for service to Islam. Nominations in this field are made on basis of achievements in the field of Islamic education. Gazzali, a Muslim theologian, was born in a Nile Delta village in 1917, and is the author of 40 books, three of which are considered major works. He graduated from Al Azhar University in Cairo in 1941.

TASS apologises for 'miracle' report

MOSCOW (AP) — The official TASS news agency apologized Sunday for mistakenly reporting that six Armenians had been saved after spending 35 days in earthquake rubble, calling its original report a "delusion." TASS correspondents Eduard Shakhnazarov and Akop Shakhnazarov wrote: "We were the first to report this, and today (Sunday) we want to offer our apologies to our readers." A painstaking search conducted over the past days did not confirm the story which we would like to believe so much."

Former Belgian premier reported abducted

BRUSSELS (R) — Former Belgian Prime Minister Paul van den Boeynants has been abducted from his Brussels home, Belgian television said Sunday. It said it had received a telephone call from a person claiming to represent the Socialist Revolutionary Brigade saying it had kidnapped 69-year-old Van den Boeynants. The Brussels public prosecutor's office confirmed that Van den Boeynants had vanished from his home Saturday evening and called the disappearance worrying.

Newspaper links Iran-contra figures

ZURICH (AP) — Swiss authorities are investigating whether three main figures in the Iran-contra affair funnelled money into a Zurich-based company named in a huge drug money laundering investigation, a newspaper said Sunday. The mass-circulation Sonntagsblatt claimed that investigators in several countries have linked former U.S. air force General Richard Secord, Iranian-born businessman Albert Hakim and Swiss-based American lawyer Willard Zucker to the international illegal drug trade. All are considered by U.S. investigators to be major players in the Iran-contra affair. In the mid-1980s, they "used a network of companies to move funds into the Zurich firm Shakarchi trading," Sonntagsblatt said. "We believe these are funds used in drug and weapons transactions," the paper quoted an unnamed investigating official as saying. No other sources were cited in the report.

National tree-planting project unveiled on eve of Arbor Day King calls for public effort to green Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday attended an Arbor Day celebration at Kharraneh, 70 kilometres east of Amman, and urged Jordanians to plant trees and contribute to the national effort to green the Kingdom.

The King said that Jordan had made a good start in tree planting, and would continue the process for greening the whole country.

Senior officials and high-ranking army officers were present at the ceremony in Kharraneh and took part along with the King in planting trees.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi said a total of 500 dunums of land in the region of Kharraneh was planted with trees during Arbor Day ceremony Sunday.

Due to the very poor rainfall in that region, the ministry has adopted the "contour lines technique" to preserve the largest amount of rain water in the ground, Lawzi said. He said the technique involves covering the root of the plant with small stones

to keep humidity and protect them from the heat.

A total of five million fruit and forest tree saplings will be planted in the Kingdom during Arbor Day celebrations this year, according to Lawzi.

The ministry intends to distribute saplings to the Armed Forces, public organisations, farmers and individuals, he said.

Lawzi said the Ministry of Agriculture had worked out a plan to plant large areas of land with trees, specially in the eastern districts of the Kingdom, and no less than 250,000 dunums of land would be planted in these regions in the next few years.

According to the plan, he said, sides of main roads and the Hammam basin in the far eastern regions near the Iraqi border will also be planted with trees employing the same contour line technique.



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday plants a sapling at Kharraneh on the eve of Arbor Day (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

King meets Specter

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received U.S. Senator Arlen Specter in a meeting attended by U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the meeting was held soon after the senator's arrival here in the course of a tour of the Middle East.

Specter, a Republican from Pennsylvania, met in Damascus last week with Syrian officials to

discuss Lebanon's political crisis and the 13-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli occupied territories.

Specter also discussed the overall Middle East situation at a meeting with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Before arriving in Damascus, Specter had visited Baghdad and met with government officials.

U.S. embassy sources in Amman said the senator was due to leave Jordan Monday.



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday meets U.S. Senator Arlen Specter and a delegation accompanying him (Petra photo)

East, West reach milestone disarmament, rights package

VIENNA (Agencies) — Negotiators from 35 countries Sunday adopted an ambitious package of disarmament and human rights proposals hailed as a milestone in East-West relations.

A final document at the conference on security and cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the result of 27 months of tough negotiations, includes the framework for new conventional arms reduction talks and commitments by governments to bolster the right of the individual versus the state.

The one dissenting voice came from Romania, which accepted the package in principle but said it was not bound to implement provisions "to which it does not agree or considers inadequate."

Commenting on the conclusion of the talks, U.S. chief delegate Warren Zimmermann said: "This is an excellent document, one that can play a historic role in the Helsinki process..."

"It is a milestone, an important

milestone, but it is not the end of the process," he told a news conference.

Soviet chief delegate Yuri Kashlev said the CSCE process begun with the signing of the 1975 Helsinki final act "is being elevated to a qualitatively new level unprecedented since Helsinki."

He described the human rights provisions, which underline freedom of movement, religion and information and set specific limits on the time governments can take to process applications to travel, as "a major breakthrough in this area."

Both Kashlev and Zimmerman paid tribute to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his "new thinking" as a key factor in the success of the meeting, which according to the U.S. envoy had exceeded his expectations.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and their colleagues from 33 other nations

are expected to discuss preparations for the new arms control talks when they converge on Vienna for a closing meeting opening Tuesday.

The celebration was marred by Romania, whose leader Nicolae Ceausescu ordered his delegation only two weeks ago to seek last-minute revisions of 17 human rights provisions, without success.

In a statement during the adoption session the delegation of Romania said:

"Under the pretext of concern for human rights and religious freedom, the concluding document contains provisions not in keeping with the spirit of the Helsinki final act and the realities of the time."

While the West was clearly happy with the human rights concessions from the East, Moscow and its allies expressed satisfaction with the new arms talks.

'Diamond-carrying soldier unwitting Pan Am bomber'

LONDON (Agencies) — Investigators pursuing the bombers of Pan Am's Flight 103 are looking into the possibility that a U.S. soldier unknowingly brought the bomb aboard the jetliner, a newspaper report said Sunday.

The Sunday Express said British and U.S. investigators were acting on U.S. government reports that some U.S. soldiers had been paid to take packages of diamonds to New York.

The Sunday Telegraph said the investigation into Britain's worst air disaster is being hampered by the recovery of baggage from the wreckage which cannot be matched with anyone on board the plane.

It said Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, working with Scottish police, also believes that luggage belonging to passengers who died was mistakenly placed on other flights.

"The implications of this are causing investigators grave concern," the Sunday Telegraph said.

"Police believe that matching luggage to victims is an essential first step towards tracing the bombers... if stray baggage was in the Pan Am Jumbo's hold, it

would make no sense of claims

that no baggage is loaded unless it is matched to a passenger."

Flight 103, which originated in Frankfurt and was destined for New York after an aircraft change in London, exploded in the air over Lockerbie, Scotland on Dec. 21, killing 270 people.

Authorities said a bomb was placed in the area of the jetliner's front cargo hold.

The Sunday Express reported that soldiers are being questioned about the alleged diamond-courier scheme, which it said had been going on for months before the Flight 103 bombing.

The newspaper said U.S. troops were approached in West German nightclubs and offered thousands of dollars to carry diamonds to New York.

"On the fatal flight, it is supposed a deadly semtex parcel of death and destruction was handed over instead of diamonds," said the newspaper, without giving further details or identifying its sources.

"Jewish Defence League"

Dutch police are looking into the authenticity of a letter purporting to be from the "Jewish Defence League" that claimed responsibility for planting the

bomb aboard Flight 103, a police spokesman in Leeuwarden said.

The letter, which reached the AP in London Thursday, had a Dutch stamp and was postmarked in a city in northern Netherlands.

"We have mounted a routine investigation to see whether we can learn anything about the origin of the letter," said Leeuwarden police chief Nicolas van Helten.

Although a police spokesman told the AP Thursday night that there were doubts on the letter's authenticity, Van Helten said in a telephone interview that "we cannot discard the serious possibilities out of hand."

The letter said: "We think the moment has come to disclose to the world from which side the bomb was placed which destroyed the Boeing 737 from Pan Am."

"We, a radical group of the Jewish Defence League, take responsibility for this action," the typewritten letter said. It added that the bomb was planted "by our fighters in Frankfurt" to protest the U.S. government's decision a week earlier to open talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"It said Abu Sherif described an Arafat meeting with the British deputy minister for foreign affairs, William Walgrave, as "very positive concerning all topics we discussed" (see page 2).

2 Palestinians shot and killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinians died Sunday after clashes with Israeli soldiers as Palestinians throughout the occupied territories observed a general strike.

As the casualty toll mounted in the 13-month-old uprising — troops were reported to have wounded eight Palestinian protesters Sunday — an Israeli government minister demanded a review of the army's use of such arms as plastic bullets.

"I raised the issue of the morality of using those elements. It should be discussed in a more thorough way," Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, a member of the Labour Party, told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting.

Shahal said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir agreed to hold a cabinet debate on the issue soon.

At least 365 Palestinians have died in the uprising.

Doctors who regularly treat Palestinians wounded in clashes with the army say the supposedly non-lethal plastic bullets have killed and maimed dozens of people since they were introduced six months ago.

In the West Bank, Mohammad Rushdi Abusha, 18, was shot in the chest during a clash with troops at the Far'a refugee camp and was dead on arrival at a local hospital, doctors said.

Ziad Ahmed Rahwan, 17, from Rafah in the Gaza Strip, died in an Israeli hospital after being shot by soldiers Saturday.

Settlers and soldiers have traded blows at the site in recent days where troops have demolished the stone memorial three times and settlers have rebuilt it each time.

Right-wingers in the left-right coalition government attacked Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the cabinet meeting for his handling of the situation at Yekar, political scientist said.

The latest Palestinian deaths bring to six the number of Palestinians killed by army gunfire in the past three days. All of the victims were 18 or younger and one was a 12-year-old girl.

The Yediot Achronot mass-circulation tabloid quoted senior army commanders as saying the violence was a return to the bloodshed earlier in the uprising, after several months of relative calm.

Moscow says Afghan deadline will be met

MOSCOW (R) — The commander of Soviet forces in Afghanistan said in a television interview broadcast Sunday that all his troops would leave the country on schedule by mid-February.

"By Feb. 15 the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan will be completed entirely," Lieutenant-General Boris Gromov said.

"It is a delicate question which worries everybody in the world and of course it worries us," Gromov added. "But the plan and the scheme of the withdrawal have

'Mercy' ceasefire in Amal-Hizbollah war

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Feuding militias clashed in Beirut's southern slums Sunday and the Red Cross removed 20 decomposed corpses from the South Lebanon battlefield after arranging a "mercy ceasefire."

The Syrian army, meanwhile, sent 50 troops close to Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon to prevent militia fighting from spreading to east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, police said.

They said the Syrians dismantled street barricades and sandbag positions set up by fighters of the Amal militia and Hizbollah in the southwestern Bekaa village of Sohmor.

The Syrian force withdrew from Sohmor at daybreak Sunday to their original positions in and around the town of Machgara in the foothills of Mount Hermon, police said.

This was the first time Syrian troops have entered Sohmor since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, said a police spokesman.

Red Cross teams brought out the dead from the devastated South Lebanon town of Jubah.

The rivals stopped fighting to

about 500 Hizbollah fighters. An estimated 1,000 Amal militiamen are besieging the enclave, vowing to move in on their foes when their supplies run out.

"We shall remain there. Even if we run out of ammunition, we shall fight with stones. There are plenty of stones there," said Hizbollah's chief spokesman Sheikh Ibrahim Amin at a news conference in south Beirut's Bir Al Abed district.

Amin described Amal chieftain Nabil Berri as "a bloodthirsty pharaoh" and called for a six-point peace process with Amal based on:

1. An immediate ceasefire in south Beirut and South Lebanon;
2. Evacuation of all wounded;
3. Lifting of Amal's food blockade on Hizbollah's enclave around Jubah;
4. Release of all prisoners taken in the latest Amal-Hizbollah confrontation;

5. The renunciation by Amal of its avowed policy of uprooting Hizbollah from Lebanon;

6. Serious dialogue between Amal and Hizbollah to lay down a political and security formula for peaceful coexistence.

Witnesses said the bodies of the fighters, mostly in their 20s, were riddled with bullets.

The hilltop town is now the centre of fighting which has raged for two weeks in the Iqlim Al Tufah region stretching from Sidon to the Israeli-held "security zone."

Jubah is the key to a 25-square-kilometre enclave controlled by

Iraqis give cheering farewell to Yemeni soldiers

BAGHDAD (AP) — More than 3,000 North Yemeni soldiers who fought in the Gulf war with Iraq left Baghdad Saturday.

Iraqi soldiers, waving both the Iraqi and Yemeni flags and holding the pictures of Iraq's President Saddam Hussein and Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh, showered the departing soldiers with flowers and sweets, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

The agency said the Yemeni troops flashed victory signals at their Iraqi counterparts as they departed Muthanna airport, a military base in Baghdad's outskirts.

INA said the ceremony was attended by senior army officials and members of the Baath Party, but did not specify who.

President Hussein confirmed Thursday that Yemen had sent one brigade to fight in the war with Iran.

Waldegrave to meet Klibi in Tunis today

TUNIS (Agencies) — British Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs William Waldegrave will meet this week with Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi, the organisation said Saturday following the minister's meeting with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Waldegrave and Arafat met for more than two hours Friday night, an encounter which Waldegrave said "constitutes a major development in the policies of Britain,"

The Arab League said Waldegrave would meet Klibi Monday. Diplomatic sources said he also would preside over a meeting of Britain's ambassadors in North Africa, but did not specify when.

Both the Arab League and PLO are headquartered here.

The meeting between Waldegrave and Arafat was Britain's first direct contact with the head of the PLO.

The meeting led to agreement on the kind of peace conference that should be held to reach a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

After the meeting, he said the talks demonstrated that the world

was changing and Israel "had to change as well or it would risk being left behind."

Arafat characterised the talks, held at the home of PLO Tunisia representative, Hakam Balaoui, as "fruitful, constructive and useful."

"We agreed on the kind of international conference toward which we should be heading," Waldegrave said "and we discussed steps that could be taken to bring about this conference soon."

Waldegrave, who is to visit Israel in early March, said he wanted to see some sign from the Israelis that they were responding to changes in the Middle East.

In Israel, a government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that "every meeting of a senior European official with Arafat causes disappointment here."

Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Adon Liel said Friday that the British were well aware of Israel's attitude towards the PLO.

In London, Israeli Ambassador Yoav Biran said he regretted what he called the "unwarranted rush of British politicians" to meet Arafat and the PLO.

The Soviets began moving out in the beginning of the month as their Feb. 15 deadline for the withdrawal of their remaining 50,000 troops approached. And as they have, Mujahedeen guerrillas have moved closer to the capital, stepping up convoy attacks.

On the streets, Bikhari had been standing in line since 6 a.m. and was half a block from the front by mid-afternoon. Such waits for supplies reflect the increasing harassment of thrice-weekly convoys on the Solang, now the sole highway for supplying the city.

"We just want peace," Salom said. "No Russians, no Mujahedeen, no government. Just peace."

Fate of kidnapped American officer remains a mystery

By Mohammad Salam
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — The fate of kidnapped U.S. marine Lieutenant-Colonel William R. Higgins, described as "the most valuable" of nine Americans held hostage in Lebanon, remained a mystery Sunday, his 44th birthday.

The last word on the American, kidnapped in South Lebanon 11 months ago, came Dec. 12.

His pro-Iranian captors from the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth said they had sentenced him to death for spying for Israel.

But there has been no confirmation since then that he has been killed. No body has been found.

The organisation has claimed responsibility for kidnapping 12 Lebanese Jews since 1984 and has said it killed eight of them. Four bodies have been found.

However, a Shi'ite source,

familiar with the thinking of pro-Iranian factions, said he did not believe Higgins has been slain.

"I don't believe he'll be killed," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "He's too valuable a card to be wasted."

"He's an American officer who had held sensitive posts in the United States. He also served with the United Nations. This makes him an American national security interest and an international interest," the source said.

"I'm sure that Higgins will be the last captive to gain his freedom ... he's the most valuable of the American captives."

The nine American captives include Terry Anderson, the chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press. He was kidnapped in Beirut March 16, 1985, making him the longest held of all the 15 foreign hostages in Lebanon.

Apart from the Americans,

three Britons, an Irishman, a Belgian and an Italian are missing.

Higgins, of Danville, Kentucky, headed a 76-man United Nations military observer group monitoring the Lebanon-Israel border when he was kidnapped by gunmen near the southern port of Tyre Feb. 17.

Two days later, the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth issued a statement claiming the abduction and charging that Higgins spied for the "satanic CIA."

The statement, delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut, was accompanied with photocopies of two identity cards, one in English, the other in Hebrew. Both carried photos of Higgins, his signature and a U.N. stamp.

"William Higgins, agent of the Central Intelligence Agency who uses his U.N. observer's work as a cover for his dangerous espionage role, is now in the hands of our heroic Mujahedeen (holy warriors),"

it said.

The United States and the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, to which Higgins' observer group was attached, denied he was a spy.

The kidnappers originally said they would release Higgins if Israel withdrew from territory it occupies in South Lebanon, all Lebanese and Palestinians held by Israel and its militia allies were freed and the United States halted alleged involvement in efforts to crush the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Five days after the kidnapping, the group released a 70-second videotape of Higgins in which he repeated his captors' demands.

The Islamic-backed Hizbollah intervened publicly in the abduction Feb. 25, when about 10,000 sympathisers demonstrated in west Beirut chanting "Death to Higgins."

Hizbollah, believed to be the

parent organisation for fac-

tions holding most of the Western hostages, declared its support for Higgins' kidnapping April 11.

Hizbollah's chief spokesman, Sheikh Ibrahim Al Amin, told a Beirut news conference that Higgins was "not kidnapped, but detained."

"We haven't been involved in his detention, but we support it," he said, without elaboration.

In a statement issued April 21, the kidnappers dropped their offer to free Higgins and said he would be stand trial for the crimes he has committed.

The statement was accompanied by a black-and-white photograph showing Higgins in a dark field jacket, stoop-shouldered and with a stubby gray beard.

It accused him of taking part in "American conspiracies" against Muslims and supervising a Pentagon team to combat Lebanese and Palestinian

Islamic organisations."

Almost five months after Higgins was abducted, Bassam Abu Sharif, chief spokesman for Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, was quoted by Beirut's Al Diyar daily as saying that Higgins had been working on a "large-scale operation" to rescue U.S. hostages when he was kidnapped.

He also said an alleged transcript of Higgins' interrogation indicated he "had beaded the operations department of the U.S. Delta Force" before he arrived in Lebanon with the U.N. force in January last year.

Delta force is the U.S. army's elite counter-terrorist unit.

The Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth said in a statement issued in December, along with a photo of Higgins resembling the one released in April, "we have issued the irrevocable sentence to execute this American spy."

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

EMERGENCIES

HOSPITALS

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

2H19L19M12A19
JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Korean Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 World News
18:20 Arabic series
19:15 Local programme
19:40 Programmes review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:35 Programmes review
21:45 Sunday Forum
22:20 Variety show
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Variety show (cont'd.)

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Le Monde en A Vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632775.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637441.
De Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrassas Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

CHURCHES

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

WEATHER

The area is under the effect of a depression centred over Cyprus associated with a cold air mass. So it will be cloudy and rainy with snowfall in high mountains while temperature will decrease gradually. Winds will be north-westerly fresh becoming strong at

times.

In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy and scattered rain is expected. Winds will be southerly moderate to fresh and seas rough.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 14/7
Aqaba 7/17
Deserts 0/8
Jordan Valley 4/10

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 80 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim 896294
Dr. Hisham Kan'an 790286
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayem 773435
Dr. Anwar Musa Al Haj 771020
Fars pharmacy 661912

Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771131.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 645212.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811385.
Rashid Congregation Tel. 823605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821204

NIGHT DUTY

Civil Defence Directorate 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 192-621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 198-891228

Fireworks 778336
Al-Salam pharmacy 644945
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637600

Hotel Complaints 659000 / 685111
Price Complaints 637055
Water and Sewerage Complaints 661176
Amman Municipality Complaints 897467

Telephone Information (directed assistance) 12
Central Area Calls 17

Central Area Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 648411, 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-52000

EMERGENCIES

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amm. 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amm.... 642441/2

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, J. Amman 664171/14
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushter Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Al-Sharq 668137/46
Al-Abi, Abdal 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajren 771101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Al-Arafah 775111/2
Army, Marks 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 622404/50
Amar Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 1099833/2
Zarqa National Hospital 0999107/1
Ibn Sina Hospital 0999867/2

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 450 / 400
Banana

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

RIFAI MEETS ENVOY: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Sunday received the newly-appointed Qatari ambassador to Jordan, Mubarak Ibn Naser Al Kawaari.

AQABA DISTRICT REORGANISATION: The Urban Development Corporation has awarded a local Jordanian contracting firm a tender to reorganise the Shallab district in Aqaba City. A department spokesman said that more than JD 880,000 will be spent on the project which entails laying water networks, sewers and other civil works. (Petra)

TAFILEH SEWERAGE PROJECT: The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has completed a two stage sewerage project in Tafileh at the cost of JD 698,000. A WAJ spokesman said that teams are now employed on replacing the old water networks in Tafileh city and the whole governorate at the cost of JD 400,000, and that other teams are prospecting for new water resources in the eastern districts. (Petra)

JD 850,000 MADABA BUDGET: Madaba Municipality announced Sunday that its 1989 budget amounts to JD 850,000, and said that funds will be allocated for public gardens, road building, public squares, street-lighting and the construction of retaining walls. It said that JD 30,000 will be spent in compensation to citizens whose property will be affected in the process of carrying out municipal schemes.

EDUCATIONALIST LEAVES FOR U.K.: The educationalist Basem Barakat Sunday left for London on a several day working trip to Britain during which he will discuss issues pertaining to his kindergarten and school project. (J.T.)

MERCHANTS FINED: The military governor has endorsed the military court's verdict sentencing a number of merchants to pay a fine of JD 20 each for violating the supply regulations. (Petra)

PSD IDENTIFIES SUSPECTED KILLERS: Public Security Forces have unveiled the identity of the suspected criminals who murdered a citizen in Amman last week and laid his body somewhere near the Gardens Street, a spokesman for the PSD said Sunday. The spokesman said that details of the case will be revealed later following the completion of investigations with the suspected criminals who admitted to committing the crime. (Petra)

PRE-SCHOOL SERVICES IN AQABA: The National Endowment for Child Education has decided to set up a branch in Aqaba to provide pre-school services to children and to support the children's programmes and institutions, particularly the nurseries, kindergartens and children's clubs. (Petra)

HEALTH EDUCATION: A week-long training course on health education, communication and their role in promoting birth spacing was opened Sunday at Balqa Health Department in Salt. Addressing the course was the Balqa Health Department director who stressed the importance of health education in birth spacing and called for utilising the course's information. The course is attended by a number of physicians and traditional birth attendants. The course will focus on the impact of birth spacing on maternal and child health, contraceptives and the importance of the health records of women. (Petra)

SOCER CHAMPIONSHIP COVERAGE: Director General of Jordan Broadcasting and Television Corporation Munir Al Durra Sunday discussed with a delegation from the Saudi Information Ministry scopes of cooperation in the sports field. The two sides also discussed the need by the Saudi television for Jordanian technicians to assist in filming, directing and transmitting the 5th world soccer championship for juniors, due to be held in Saudi Arabia in February. Durra said the Saudi delegation has selected 14 Jordanian technicians to assist in covering the championship. (Petra)

Badran urges drawing up science, technology plan

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Council of Science and Technology Adnan Badran Saturday stressed the need for drawing up a national strategy for science and technology and cited legislation as one of the obstacles.

Chairman of the Committee on Transfer of Technology at the Engineers Association pointed out the importance of open dialogue, saying that it contributes to highlighting the council's activities.

Badran, who was speaking at an open dialogue organised by the committee on transfer of technology at the Amman Professional Associations Complex, called for directing special attention to the various stages of education and for linking science and technology with the society's needs.

He also outlined the obstacles facing the smooth progress of science and technology and cited legislation as one of the obstacles.

The objective of the dialogue is to create a joint cooperation between the council and the committee. The dialogue was attended by a number of officials and engineers.

The conference is being held every six months on a regular basis in the Tunisian capital.

Qatanani said that a representative of the Arab League will take part in the meetings.

Before his departure, Qatanani said the meeting, which would last until next Saturday, was expected to discuss a report that was prepared by the Arab League Secretariat on the Palestine refugee issue.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in a meeting by the Engineers Association Supervisors Conference which is due to open in Tunis Monday.

The Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs' Director General Ahmad Qatanani left Amman Sunday to take part in the meeting which is being attended by Arab countries hosting refugees and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1974.

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Belted to safety

SAFETY belts are again in fashion in Jordan. In a few days it will be compulsory to use them while driving inside and outside towns and cities. This is good news for drivers and their families and friends who may accompany them on their drives. There is a well-established worldwide consensus that the use of safety belts contributes to a marked decrease in deaths and injuries incurred in accidents that could happen while driving under various conditions. The fact that Jordan has finally subscribed to this international norm means that deaths and injuries on Jordanian roads will be cut drastically. There is much savings in this timely and long awaited step in terms of sufferings and economic costs. What remains is to implant in the Jordanians the culture of using safety belts. This may not be an easy task as it would take much time and many fines and penalties to reeducate Jordanian drivers in the habit of buckling up as soon as they sit behind the steering wheel. Regrettably, Jordanian drivers were met with conflicting signals by the concerned authorities on the use of safety belts in the past years. The mandatory use of safety belts was on again off again so many times in the past that Jordanian drivers never had the time to get used to the practice. It is the hope of all Jordanians that the new rules on safety belts will remain sacrosanct from now on as to assist Jordanians to acquire the habit of using them for all times.

Meanwhile, it would be most advisable to use all forms of mass media to educate Jordanians about the benefits of buckling up. Most notably, Jordan Television is called upon to pitch in the battle of teaching Jordanians the custom of using safety belts as a routine practice. Maybe billboard signs should be also used to remind drivers that it is now the law to use safety belts. In addition insurance companies operating in Jordan will be well advised to join in the effort to make the use of safety belts part of Jordanian driving traditions. After all, they have also a vested interest in cutting down on the number of deaths and injuries sustainable in road accidents in Jordan. To be sure, there are other parties in Jordan which have a stake in reducing the death and injury rate on Jordanian roads and whose contribution to the overall national effort in making the use of safety belts a common practice are urgently needed. But, in the final analysis, it is the Jordanian driver who must bear the brunt of the responsibility of making driving in Jordan a safer privilege.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Sunday discussed Israel's escalation of criminal activities against the Arab people in the occupied Arab territories and said that the past weeks witnessed a rise in the number of casualties. There is no doubt that the Israeli government is intensifying its criminal campaign in a bid to end the revolt and to defuse the world's call for an international conference for peace in the Middle East, the paper noted. Al Ra'i said that since Israel continues to scoff at the world community's condemnation of atrocities against Palestinians, then the United Nations should impose penalties on the Jewish state to force it to desist from pursuing its evil policies. Also it is high time for the Arabs to move as a body and in a concerted action to put an end to the Israeli crimes in the occupied Palestinian lands, the paper added. Israel, the paper continued, has so far been backed by the United States which, through its vetoes at the Security Council, provided an umbrella for Israel's atrocities. It said should the Bush administration maintain Washington's present attitude then the Arabs have no alternative but to seek an overwhelming U.N. support for a drastic action against Israel.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily welcomes the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Egyptian company for the production of lean meat. The project is of vital importance not only for Jordan and Egypt but also for the Arab Nation as a whole since meat production is a way to increase food supplies and ensure food security, says Salah Abdul Samad. The writer says that the project which came as a fruit of the work of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee is something to which Arab masses look to help them rely more and more on Arab sources for food and lessen dependency on imported products. Fresh meat produced locally is bound to save Egypt and Jordan vast sums of foreign currency that is being paid to import the commodity from foreign nations and can save the Arab Nation the risk of eating American meat treated with hormones that endanger public health. Abdul Samad notes. He expresses hope that all concerned sectors will now join hands to make this project achieve success.

Al Dustour daily commented Sunday on the European Community's current moves towards solving the Middle East conflict. The British foreign secretary's recent statements and the first ever meeting by a British minister with the PLO leaders in addition to the Spanish foreign minister's visit to Israel Sunday all point to one thing: That Europe is fully determined to help the two parties to the conflict to reach a lasting settlement that would safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The current moves from Europe point to a new strategy being adopted by the community towards the Middle East following the PLO's open declaration of accepting U.N. Security Council resolutions and its renunciation of all forms of terrorism, the paper noted. It said that the Arabs look to the new moves as very positive and favouring the cause of peace; and Jordan, which has been advocating a just peace world-wide, is particularly satisfied with the current efforts. The community's determination to move ahead with plans for peace also reflect the current favourable political situation and the on-going detente between the major powers.

Sawt Al Shaab said that British government minister William Waldegrave's talks with PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis clearly reflect Europe's immense interest in a Middle East peace. Waldegrave who urged Israel to respond favourably to the PLO's overtures and to accept the idea of an international conference is giving a real momentum to the peace march in our region, the paper said. It said that Britain which maintains close relations with the United States and is at the same time an ally of European nations and a friend to Israel and the Arabs can play a leading role in bringing about a real and lasting peace.

Weekly Political Pulse

Marking time

RUMOUR has it that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has new ideas on peace between his country and the Arab side. The same source behind Shamir's story is spreading additional rumours to the effect that the Israeli prime minister is consciously keeping the details of his peace plan close to his chest for fear that the Arab side would reject and kill them as soon as they are revealed to the Arab parties. By the Israeli government's own admission, the Shamir peace plan is so bad and objectionable from the Arab side point of view that it is doomed before it is kicked off by Shamir. The question that arises, therefore, is: Why is Shamir bothering to float speculations about his so-called peace plan when he knows before hand that they are so flawed that the Arab side would reject them as soon as they get a wind of it.

Recent visitors to Israel, including Lord Henry Plumb, the Speaker of the European Parliament, refute all the stories about the impending Shamir's new peace plan and confirm that the Israeli prime minister has nothing really new up his sleeves. It could very well be that the independent observers are dismissing the reports about a new Israeli peace plan because they are neither peaceful nor new but rather a rehash of old ideas long discarded by the Arab and international communities.

So why is Tel Aviv making all this fuss about a new Israeli peace initiative that would sweep away all peace plans placed on the table of the Middle East? One possible reason could be found in

the fact that the Israeli government has felt the heat of the recent Arab peace initiatives and wanted to derail them by simply marking time. Shamir must have calculated that all the excitement generated by the bold PLO peace moves can be defused and confused only by propelling decoys in its path. And Shamir's much publicised peace initiative can be best understood as just one of the decoys that is meant to make the Arab peace offer miss the mark where it counts most, i.e., Washington.

If one is to go by the test balloons being blown up to float the so-called Israeli peace ideas, there are so many negative features already revealed about them or to make them serve as basis on which to construct rectifications and amendments with a view to making them more platable. Take for example the red herring thrown purposefully by the new Shamir peace formula that calls for bypassing totally the PLO in the projected peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab side. What naivety still reigns in the minds of Shamir and like minded Israeli leaders to ever think that the clocks of the Middle East can still be turned back to the extent of excluding the Palestinians from the peace process at a time when there is considerable body of international and regional opinion that calls for exactly the opposite. There are other features revealed about the new Shamir ideas that are so flawed and ridiculous that are not worthy of commenting. They include

the preposterous flirtation with a scheme for extending the hegemony of Israel beyond the West Bank.

The only possibly positive dimension of Shamir's new advances could be his acceptance of talks under international aegis; although he still clings to his thoughts that the international umbrella must remain ceremonial. By pretending to yield to international consensus on the format of the projected peace talks on the Middle East conflict, Israel's prime minister hopes to obscure his disdain for substantial international involvement in the peace process.

If you ask me, Shamir and his government is not yet interested in advancing peace process in the Middle East. His only priority is to quell the Palestinian uprising and then to gain a breathing space to deal the Arab side a lasting fatal blow. For as long as Shamir keeps on talking about the West Bank and Gaza Strip as "Eretz Israel," no matter what words be used or formulae he introduces, the cause of peace will enjoy no chance whatsoever to survive and prosper. His aging ideas must be given an opportunity to die out naturally and slowly before the hopes for genuine negotiations between the Arab and Israeli sides would have a chance to bear fruit and come into fruition. As Shamir and his colleague wish to mark time till the Arab side has also no choice except also to mark time till the 54 per cent of the Israelis who showed willingness to trade territory for peace get the upper hand in Israeli politics.

Return to democracy not assured

Pinochet begins last year of supreme power

By Richard Waddington
Reuter

SANTIAGO — Augusto Pinochet, Chile's unrivalled ruler for the past 15 years, has begun his last full year of supreme power, but his opponents say the country's return to full democracy is not yet assured.

By the end of 1989 Chileans will have gone to the polls to elect a civilian successor to the fiercely anti-Communist general, whose dreams of continuing in power were shattered in a plebiscite in October.

The result of the ballot, in which Chile's seven million voters opted by 55 to 43 per cent against prolonging his rule for eight more years, means Pinochet must call competitive presidential and congressional elections on December 14.

Five Chileans doubt the elections will be held and that Pinochet will have to honour his pledge to hand over power on March 11, 1990.

"I have not the slightest doubt that there will be elections in 1989," Gonzalo Eguiguren, a leading member of the Conservative National Renovation Party, told Reuters.

Pinochet, 73, who has outlasted all other Latin American military rulers except Paraguay's General Alfredo Stroessner, cannot stand in the election unless the constitution is changed.

Even right-wing political parties, which backed his bid in the plebiscite, have rejected any such move.

Military tutelage

For the general's opponents, however, the transfer of the presidency from Pinochet will not mean an end to the military's political power. They say the country's constitution gives the armed forces excessive right to interfere in political affairs.

Pinochet, who is also head of the army, is guaranteed his military command for eight more years, if he wishes.

As army commander, he would sit on a military-dominated national security council empowered to question political decisions it considers threaten the country's interests.

He can also effectively appoint one third of the senate, sufficient to block moves to reform the disputed charter, before stepping down.

"What we have is military tutelage and not real democracy," said one opposition leader.

Seventeen opposition parties ranging from centrists to the Marxist left, which came together to defeat Pinochet in the poll, say the general's defeat was not just a rejection of his candidacy but also of the military's political plans.

Their demands have been supported, in part, by some right-wing political parties who fear the issue of constitutional reform could be turned to the opposition's advantage in the coming presidential election.

Civilian ministers have said the charter could be "perfected," but the general has so far ruled out changes.

Pinochet sees the constitution as a guarantee against a return to the political and economic chaos from which the military say they saved the country by toppling elected Marxist President Salvador Allende in 1973.

The campaign for reform, however, has become partially obscured by internal political manoeuvring, as politicians from all shades and parties jockey for position before the first open elections in Chile since 1970.

"Until it is clear who are the real candidates and who is going to win, the military government is not going to make any concessions," said Jose Joaquin Bruner, director of the Latin American Social Science Faculty, a think-tank linked to the moderate left.

An attempt at dialogue between the military government and its opponents, which would have been the first formal meeting between the two camps since 1984, failed when the government vetoed a left-wing member of the State Department.

"Our strategic interest is well served by a strong, self-reliant Israel," Eagleburger said at the time. "It provides us with an anchor in the Middle East, which we would not otherwise have. I can't say it any other way."

"The U.S. ability to affect events in the Middle East is very much dependent on the quality of the relationship with Israel," he observed. "I think the reverse is also true, that Israel's ability to affect the attitudes of its neighbours is very much dependent on that same perception."

The Arabs, he added, must come to understand that the U.S. commitment to Israel "is not in question." If they think there is some distance between us, there is less desire to find a way to reasonable solutions to problems than if the relationship is close."

Since leaving the State Department, Eagleburger has served as president of Kissinger Associates, Henry Kissinger's high-powered, New York-based consulting firm. The two men had established a very close personal and professional relationship in the 1970s, when Kissinger served as secretary of state in the Nixon and Ford administrations. As undersecretary for management, Eagleburger was one of his most trusted advisors.

The opposition, which took the rainbow as a symbol for their plebiscite campaign, embraces a wide range of ideologies and personal ambitions.

The parties have tacitly agreed that the centrist Christian Democrats, who ruled Chile from 1964 until 1970, when Allende was elected, has first option for the presidential candidacy.

But Patricia Aylwin, party president and official opposition spokesman during the plebiscite, who was assumed to be the front-runner, is facing a challenge from others in the party.

And the party's allies are demanding a fair share-out of the potential congressional seats as the price of their final approval. "It is a very complicated game of political chess," Schnake said.

On the political right, united only in their support for the military government's free-market economic policies, things are not clearer.

Many names are mentioned, including Finance Minister Hernan Buchi, regarded as the architect of the country's recent economic successes, but none has yet drawn wide support.

Ironically, it is from the political conservatives that the strongest pressure on the military to grant certain reforms is beginning to emerge.

National Renovation, headed by a former Pinochet minister and generally seen as the strongest conservative group, has had talks with the Christian Democrats on certain basic changes.

There is an electoral motive behind the right's interest in reform. Many Chilean conservatives opposed the plebiscite because it allowed the opposition to rally behind the single issue of defeating Pinochet.

They fear that unless the military agrees to change, the opposition will be able to turn the coming elections into a single issue campaign for constitutional reform.

"There is no doubt that those closest to the government would be hurt. It would give the opposition a new battle standard," Eguiguren said.

Kissinger's disciple takes No. 2 position at State Department

By Wolf Blitzer

WASHINGTON — Israeli officials and American Jewish leaders beamed a collective sigh of relief the other day when Secretary of State-designate James Baker announced the nomination of Lawrence Eagleburger as deputy secretary, the No. 2 slot in the department.

Eagleburger, a highly-respected career foreign service officer, who rose to the No. 3 position before retiring in 1984, has a strong record of support for Israel. This was vividly underlined just before his retirement in an interview conducted with *The Jerusalem Post* in May, 1984 at the State Department.

"Our strategic interest is well served by a strong, self-reliant Israel," Eagleburger said at the time. "It provides us with an anchor in the Middle East, which we would not otherwise have. I can't say it any other way."

"The U.S. ability to affect events in the Middle East is very much dependent on the quality of the relationship with Israel," he observed. "I think the reverse is also true, that Israel's ability to affect the attitudes of its neighbours is very much dependent on that same perception."

It is 13 years since Kissinger was actually in office, but his powerful presence continues to be felt in Washington. This will be so even if President-elect Bush does not offer him any official diplomatic assignment — and most insiders here in Washington do not expect him to give Kissinger a specific job.

Kissinger, an imposing, even charismatic figure, has become a prolific writer in the newspapers and a frequent commentator on television news programmes. His thinking is carefully scrutinised by both American and foreign observers. And what he says will certainly be heard in the Bush administration. In fact, he is said to have a very cordial personal relationship with the new president.

There are other reasons why Kissinger will continue to be important. In addition to Eagleburger, others of his former top assistants will also have important positions in the new administration. And they will look to him for advice.

Not surprisingly, Kissinger and Eagleburger see basically eye-to-eye on many of the most important foreign policy questions of the day, including the Arab-Israeli conflict... They also oppose the creation of an independent Palestinian state."

Brent Scowcroft, for example,

has been named Bush's national security adviser in the White House. Like Eagleburger, Scowcroft worked for Kissinger in the Nixon and Ford administrations. While by no means hostile toward Israel, Scowcroft does not necessarily share Eagleburger's very strong support.

They also oppose the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

Scowcroft's views are much more down-the-middle — those of the traditional Eastern Establishment, as reflected by the Council on Foreign Relations and the Brookings Institution.

Because of Baker's relative lack of foreign-policy experience, Eagleburger will play a very active role in many areas, including the Middle East. For one thing,

important foreign leaders, including most Israelis, when coming to the U.S. usually ask to meet with Kissinger. They not only learn from the former Harvard professor, but they also attempt to influence his thinking, aware of his continued behind-the-scenes role.

Yet familiarity and support can be two-edged.

Precisely because of Eagleburger's pro-Israeli reputation and his vast diplomatic experience, he probably will be able to lean on Israel more effectively than some of the lesser-known Bush figures.

This was certainly the case when Kissinger shuttled in the region.

Eagleburger will not have to prove his credentials. What he says in private to the Israeli leadership — and he can be just as hard-nosed and tough as his former boss — will carry a great deal of weight, and he knows it.

During the past four years, while out of government office, he continued to speak out on key issues.

As far as the Middle East is concerned, he spoke before several Jewish groups, and received a few honours as well. At a forum sponsored by B'nai B'rith International in Washington last year, he challenged the whole concept of an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Features



Freya Stark in traditional Arab dress.

Freya Stark — Eternal traveller

Dame Freya Stark has spent an itinerant lifestyle and written many books about her travels. A new book brings together her prolific correspondence to relations and friends; it is rich in accounts of experiences from an adventurous life.

By Maggie James

LONDON — Writing to a young person wishing to travel, 87-year-old Freya Stark advises that she thinks it important to have a quest of one's own — "history, literature, photography, anything like a pursuit to give an added reason and interest for travel."

She herself has had an interest in all of these things and, in addition, an abiding curiosity about people and places. This has been coaxed by her long literary career as a travel writer. As a substitute for a diary, Freya Stark wrote to her family and acquaintances as she travelled and an extraordinary eight volumes of her letters have been published.

The most recent volume, entitled *Over the Rim of the World*, edited by Caroline Moorehead and published by John Murray in association with Michael Russell,

consists of selected letters which span 66 years of her remarkable life.

The modern day traveller can only marvel at the confidence, stamina, courage and resourcefulness of a lady who, though not always in the best of health, frequently travelled alone, often in foreign countries where females were rarely seen in public or, as in Iran, where no European woman had travelled alone before.

She used a diversity of transport, often spending uncomfortable hours on the back of a mule or a camel — and all this to an era when many of her travels would have been regarded as pioneering for a man, let alone a woman.

Born in Paris in 1893 of English parents, Freya Stark's childhood was nomadic, with her artist parents constantly moving. Freya and her sister had a sporadic

education, usually under the tutorage of governesses. Despite this, Freya was academically inclined and went on to study history at London University. She had an aptitude for languages and gained a knowledge of French, German, Italian and Latin. Later, during her travels, she learned Turkish, Arabic, Persian and Russian.

Travelling on to Syria, Freya encountered bedouins with a train of camels and excitedly described the animals: "The great gentle creatures came browsing and moving and pausing, rolling gently over the landscape like a brown wave just a little browner than the desert that carried it. Their huge legs rose up all round me like columns; the foals were frisking about; the herdsmen rode here and there. I stood in a kind of ecstasy among them."

"It seemed they were not so much moving as flowing along, with something indescribably fresh and peaceful and free about it all, as if the struggle of all these thousands of years had never been, since first they started wandering. I never imagined that my first sight of the desert would come with such a shock of beauty and enslave me right away."

After a short visit to her father in Canada, Freya, determined to return to the Middle East, travelled to Baghdad. The British community in Baghdad was rather disapproving of this somewhat eccentric lady who wore Arab dresses for dinner parties and, in order to economise, lived 'native' with a shoemaker's family.

1970 she was still travelling, this time to the Himalayas at the age of 77.

But that was not the end of her travelling days. In 1984 she returned to the Middle East, and visited Yemen and Syria. In 1972 Freya Stark was made a Dame in the British New Years Honours List, but found the title, she told friends, a little austere.

The final letter of the book contains a characteristic piece of advice for several British newspapers and in 1932 became a regular writer for the *Baghdad Times* which brought a welcome income. Although she returned to Baghdad several times, her restless feet soon took her to Iran, Egypt and southern Arabia, which she visited for the first time in 1934 because, as she explained later, "I wanted space, distance, history and danger." She had taken up photography on her adventures and also drew maps of the areas she visited.

More travels followed, including trips to India, across America in 1943 and 1944 (where she was asked to give talks on the Palestine question) and Turkey. In

— Academic File

Keys are also becoming 'more intelligent'

ESSEN (INP) — There are all sorts of buzzing, banging, and whistling sounds to be heard at the Security Technology Fair. Sensors register the noises and body heat of potential burglars, electronic eyes on doors and gates record unauthorised intruders through the fundus of the eye, signature or fingerprints. Floodlights come on, red lights begin to circulate, sirens sound the alarm and broken panes of glass as well as breaking the law are an integral part of demonstrations. This all takes place at the "world security fair" or "Security 89" in the West German city of Essen. This time around some 400 exhibitors from 17 countries attended, displaying everything designed to protect people, dwellings, industrial plants and bank safes.

Since biblical times, burglars have paid their calls at night — and alarm systems have been used to chase them away if doors and windows were not secure enough. Criminals have since become a lot more cunning and bolder. They also are active during the day, use false ID cards and documents. Security technology must find ways to repel them for there are entire factory grounds, computer centres and data stores, laboratories or safes containing building plans which have to be protected from burglary, fire or computer crime.

The figures provide a warning on their own: some 3.3 billion DM worth of damage was caused last year in the Federal Republic of Germany through theft alone according to crime statistics.

Bank and post robbers were active on 878 occasions, 633 trans-

ports carrying money and valuables were robbed, the staff of shops and accounting offices were the victims of armed robbers on no less than 2,904 occasions. The security technology branch this year anticipates a turnover of 7.5 billion DM — and the expectation of seven to eight per cent growth per annum in future appears reasonable.

The German Federal Post Office recently began making the TEMEX system available, which automatically passes on an alarm signal from a factory or the home — unobserved by intruders — via the telephone network to a security centre of the police. Of course, such high technological installations are not cheap. For instance, light barriers set to detect intruders at night, a lock which prevents shutters being pushed up or a programmed drive unit for shutters, which operated on a time basis, regularly opening and shutting the blinds thus creating the impression that the occupants are at home. The Essen fair displayed window and door glass which shot-resistant and cylinder locks which cannot simply be forced out.

Keys too are becoming more intelligent. There is a key for instance, with built-in micro chip, which has a programmed code, making electronic locks safe from break-ins. Anyone wishing to keep undesired guests out altogether installs a "Videoporter" at his front-door. Then you can see who is there without being seen yourself.

Kurt Pleyer
(IN-Press)

The 'unsung' lady composers

(INP) — Not just a few, but thousands of women have been composing for centuries. Yet if one asks their names, even the experts are only able, at best, to mention female composers in conjunction with a famous husband or brother. They refer to Clara Wieck, the celebrated pianist and wife of Robert Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel, whose brother Felix contemporaneously described her compositions as "petticoat products," or Alma Mahler-Werfel, whose husband Gustav flatly forbade her to compose. Women were appreciated as interpreters, as celebrated singers, harpists, pianists or violinists. But composing was and remained a male domain.

The New Music festivals — to which Elke Mascha Blankenburg extends invitations — often offer

performed, though, success followed. Ilse Fromm-Michaels' music captured the interest of Hans Pfitzner, under whom she studied for three years. Greta von Zieritz attributes the positive reactions of her audiences to the highly personal tonal language of her pieces, and without Aleida Montijn's stage music, almost thirty years of Frankfurt's theatre history would be unthinkable. Yet only now have thoughts turned to her opera, her cantatas, orchestral works, chamber music and organ compositions.

The New Music festivals — to which Elke Mascha Blankenburg extends invitations — often offer

works performed provided an opportunity to confirm prejudices, too; those expecting sentimental music found their expectations confirmed, as did those who firmly believe that creativeness and handicraft skills are a self-evident truth which have nothing to do with sex.

In this connection, works by young artists from the USSR, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania are particularly conspicuous because of their niveau and context. Sofia Gubaidulina, Galina Ustwolskaja and Tatjana Sergejewa have long become a household word in Western Europe, as have Violeta Dinescu, Myriam Marké and Andriana Hölszky. Andriana Hölszky's vocal compositions "Monolog" for female voice and percussion, and "... es kann schwarze Vögel", a work for five female singers and percussion, have been performed in Kassel, for instance. Far removed from feminist defiance or excessive awareness of problems, her works radiate joy, tonal effects, and supreme creative phantasy, completely free from technical production problems or desired effects — which make the performances of these compositions a stroke of good fortune. The Romanian-born artist, now living in Stuttgart, has long secured her place outside women's festivals. Her first opera was premiered at this year's Biennale in Munich, the only work by a woman and one which met with undisputed success. Here, at least, one goal seems to have been realised: the

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Composer Adriana Hölszky is one of the few women who has succeeded in establishing herself in the professional music world. (Photo: INP/Hölszky-privat)

integration of a female composer's music in traditional concert programmes.

The prejudice that women have no place in orchestras is even more tenacious than the opinion that composing is a man's job. Today, 1,500 male orchestral players are to be found in an exposed position compared with 214 female musicians in a similar position. The old tale about women's limited powers of ex-

ploration seems to be particularly persistent in this sector. This is especially true of prestigious major orchestras in which the prospects of engagement remain fairly bleak for even the most highly qualified women players. The example of clarinetist Sahine Meyer with the Berlin Philharmonic is not an isolated case; harpist Maria Graf also departed after a year's probation. A female trombonist in Munich suffered a simi-

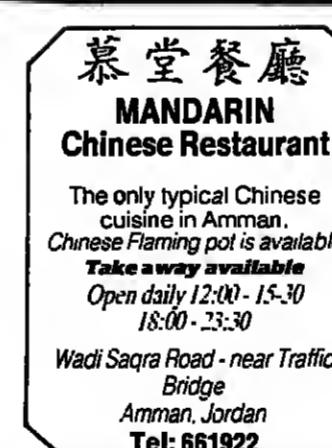
lar fate. Not to speak of the Vienna Philharmonic where women are considered undesirable right from the start. Unfortunately, the old prejudice — which female composers have now overcome — still applies to female orchestral musicians: women's music — and men's ears close up.

Gudrun Stegen
(IN-Press)

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(Photo: DPA)

Soviet exports down, imports up in 1988

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's trade balance worsened last year with exports slumping by two per cent and imports increasing by 6.5 per cent, according to official figures released Saturday.

Tadeusz Teodorovich of the Soviet Ministry of External Economic Relations released the figures to the TASS news agency, adding to a more general statement on trade he made to journalists earlier this week.

He repeated that total trade turnover stood at 132 billion roubles (\$220 billion) in 1988 — up from 129 billion the previous year (\$215 billion).

On Wednesday, he said exports exceeded imports by four billion roubles (\$6.5 billion) last year. In 1987, exports totalled 68.2 billion roubles (\$10.8 billion) and imports stood at 60.7 billion roubles (\$9.6 billion).

Teodorovich told TASS the structure of Soviet exports remained unsatisfactory with 70 per cent derived from fuel and energy deliveries. Engineering products accounted for 16 per cent.

The worsening of the trade position appears to have been caused primarily by falling prices for oil and raw materials.

Teodorovich said efforts were under way to develop exports in areas other than primary resources — a key plank of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reform programme. Teodorovich said it was hoped

changes to the Soviet foreign trade system would improve the balance, particularly regulations allowing all state, cooperative and other organisations to export and import freely from next April.

He said the current programme to boost trade growth included a move to confine imports mainly to machinery and equipment to modernise enterprises connected with engineering or the food industry.

The Soviet national income, a measure of economic activity that excludes the value of some services, increased by 4.4 per cent in 1988 and by 3.6 per cent for the period of 1986-1988, TASS said.

"The growth of national income was assured by an increase in labour productivity with an absolute reducing in 1987-1988 of the number of people engaged in material production," TASS said.

However, it said that the increase in national income still fell short of the plan for 1988 by 13.3 billion roubles (\$21 billion). It did not say what the goal was.

"No stability in the development of agricultural production and in the operation of processing branches had been achieved so far," TASS reported.

Greenspan says U.S. inflation not accelerating significantly

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. economy is showing no sign of inflation rising significantly but fighting inflationary pressures remains a priority, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said in remarks published Sunday.

"What I am saying at this particular stage... is that inflation is not currently showing any significant acceleration," Greenspan told the New York Times.

"But having said that, it is not at all helpful in determining what policy stance one should take," he said.

"It really is important that we lean over backward, so to speak, to make certain that we don't allow inflation pressures to emerge."

Greenspan, who as head of the U.S. central bank sets policy independent of the White House



Alan Greenspan

and Congress to slow or stoke the economy, said despite the lack of danger signs the Fed's main concern remained staying on top of inflation.

"The central focus of what we are doing at the Fed is to keep inflation from accelerating — and perhaps decelerating," he said.

Greenspan said a "sea change" had taken place since the days of rampant inflation in the late 1970s and early 1980s and that he believed wage and price pressures were unlikely to once again fuel an inflationary spiral.

He said one common misconception of inflation failed to take into account how inexpensive it is to manufacture abroad for U.S. consumption, which he said alleviated domestic shortages due to inflation without adding much to the trade deficit.

Another misconception was the failure to realise the prime concern of U.S. labour now was job security, not higher wages.

Oman expects non-OPEC accord with OPEC

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's oil minister said Saturday he believed the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other oil-producing states would reach an agreement aimed at raising and stabilising world oil prices.

"I know from my colleagues in non-OPEC countries that they are willing to cooperate with OPEC," the minister, said Ibn Ahmad Al Shafari, told Reuters.

"I believe that we will have an agreement... definitely we will have an agreement," he added in

reply to a question on whether the two groups could agree on measures to boost prices.

Shafari met Suhroto, secretary-general of OPEC, in Muscat Thursday to discuss cooperation between the 13-member group and other producer countries.

Oman, though not a member of OPEC, has coordinated its oil policy with OPEC in the past by cutting output to help efforts to achieve market stability.

Experts from six OPEC and eight non-OPEC countries will meet in London Jan. 26 for talks to prepare the ground for a min-

isterial meeting between the two groups.

Non-OPEC Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico, North Yemen and Oman will take part in discussions with OPEC members Algeria, Indonesia, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Suhroto told reporters Thursday that eight oil-producing states from the United States and Canada's Alberta province might also be represented and be hoped the Soviet Union would attend.

Shafari, who was to leave for Moscow Sunday for talks with Soviet officials, said: "I will take the chance to ask our friends where in what ways we can cooperate. I have nothing to propose."

He said non-OPEC countries should not expect OPEC to make all the moves to stabilise prices, which fell last year more than \$7 below OPEC's target price of \$18 a barrel.

"It is our time (non-OPEC) to help them (OPEC) because the indication from OPEC is that they have a strong interest among themselves to keep the price of oil reasonable," he said.

Spot market prices have recovered more than \$4 a barrel since November on indications that OPEC members are sticking to new lower output limits.

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The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that courses in modern standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on the Jan. 28, and will last for 16 weeks. Two programmes will be offered:

- An intensive programme in which classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday. The fee for these courses is JD 140 per term.
- A regular programme in which classes meet 6 hours per week (5:30-7:10 Saturday, Monday and Wednesday). The fee for these courses is JD 50 per term.

Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration.

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primarily for English-language work. Applicants should be Jordanian, bilingual Arabic-English, with perfect command of written English, and ideally with some background in business/economics. Work involves computer-based information and desktop publishing systems, writing for the quality international press, and possibly some travel, as part of a small team of professionals working on original book publishing, newsletters, and some corporate information materials. Full-time and half-time positions available. Qualified applicants should send their CV and samples of their writing (English and Arabic) to P.O. Box 9446, Amman, Jordan.

All applications will be treated in full confidence.

East Asia's consumers go on spending spree

By Rich Miller
Reuter

TOKYO — East Asia's consumers are starting to loosen their purse strings and live a little.

From Thailand to Japan, they are snapping up everything from automobiles to Louis Vuitton handbags as they spend some of the cash they earned fuelling their country's recent rapid economic growth.

"The Japanese are now more interested in enjoying their life," said Toshio Yamasaki, economist at the Bank of Tokyo.

They aren't alone. According to Thai commercials, the "ideal person" carries a golf club in one hand, a portable telephone in another, wears a Gucci shirt and lives in a two-storey house complete with a microwave oven.

"People in these countries are becoming more and more interested in buying consumer goods such as electric appliances and cars," Yamasaki said.

And their companies are becoming more and more in-

terested in supplying those goods domestically, rather than shipping them abroad.

That is good news for the United States, which has been pressing the countries in the region to cut their trade surpluses by spending more at home and buying more imports.

"The catch phrase (in Japan) has changed from 'export or die' to 'import and buy,'" said Stephen Usher, research executive for Broker Kleinwort Benson International in Tokyo.

The consumer boom started in Japan, then spread to the region's newly industrialising economies — Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan — and Thailand.

For the most part, the region's thrifty workers are not saving much less. The average Taiwanese, for example, still puts away more than a third of his earnings.

But because of the area's rapid economic growth, East Asians are now earning more and have that much more to spend, economists said. Wages in both South Korea and Taiwan are rising at a double-

digit pace as workers turn more militant and employers more generous.

"People in Taiwan are getting richer and becoming big spenders," said Chen Yun-How, manager of the Far Eastern Department Store Company in Taipei.

"We have sold more cameras and television sets since July than in the entire (1987)," said Patrick Dass, sales representative of Perama Stamford Electronics in Singapore.

Boosted buying power

In the annual round of wage increases in May Japanese workers are expected to get more than five per cent more in their pay packets, economists said. With inflation near zero, that should translate into a big increase in their buying power.

"The domestic economy is expected to continue to grow, mainly led by consumer spending and corporate capital investment," said Yutaka Kume, president of Nissan Motor Company.

Sales in Japan of both domestic and imported cars zoomed to record levels last year and are expected to do so

again in 1989.

Most of the imports are luxury cars from Europe. "European manufacturers have stayed the Japanese market," explained Michio Watanabe, a policy-maker in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

High-priced imports are also catching on elsewhere in the region, partly because they are perceived as status symbols.

The rapid rise in the currencies of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan has also made some imports cheaper and more accessible to the man-in-the-street.

"If it's got a French name on it, it will sell," said Myrick Hatch, Taiwan managing director of broker Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers.

"They prefer to buy better imported cars than local ones," added Michael Chen, president of Taipei car dealer Pento United Motor Company.

In Hong Kong, even the Chinese emporiums, traditionally a source of cheap, utilitarian goods made in China, have been forced to move up-market. Out went the abacus and in came electronic tills.

They line up at the doors of plush department stores before opening time to buy high-priced imports as well as increasingly more expensive domestic goods.

"I can't understand how they can afford this stuff, but they do," one department store executive said. "I can't buy anything in my own store, it's so expensive."

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They line up at the doors of plush department stores before opening

Sports

Olympic coach begins 'Proposal 42' boycott

LANDOVER (AP) — True to his word, Georgetown University basketball coach John Thompson walked off the court immediately before the opening tipoff of the seventh-ranked Hoyas' game against Boston College Saturday night to protest a new rule on scholarships.

The Hoyas played well even without his guidance. With Riley at the helm, Georgetown sprinted out to a 24-7 lead and coasted to an 86-60 victory.

"The players were very supportive of the coach," Riley said. "Some of them wanted to walk out with him."

Boston College coach Jim O'Brien said the Hoyas didn't miss a beat without Thompson on the bench.

"His absence had no effect whatsoever," O'Brien said. "Those guys could have coached themselves."

O'Brien said Thompson's walkout is particularly effective because he guides one of the country's finest programmes and because he was the 1988 Olympic basketball coach. And while he said he wouldn't take similar action, O'Brien said he agreed with Thompson in principle.

Dozens of coaches around the country agreed with Thompson, expressing their displeasure.

The proposal was approved by the NCAA Wednesday by a 163-154 vote.

"In an effort to rekindle discussion in this proposal... I will not be on the bench in an NCAA-sanctioned Georgetown basketball game until I am satisfied that something has been done," Thompson said Friday. He said the protest would "bring attention to something I think is a tremendous tragedy."

Thompson said before the game that he intended to leave

the building after walking off the court and he did just that, ignoring dozens of reporters before getting into a waiting car and leaving the arena.

The Hoyas played well even without his guidance. With Riley at the helm, Georgetown sprinted out to a 24-7 lead and coasted to an 86-60 victory.

"The players were very supportive of the coach," Riley said. "Some of them wanted to walk out with him."

Boston College coach Jim O'Brien said the Hoyas didn't miss a beat without Thompson on the bench.

"His absence had no effect whatsoever," O'Brien said. "Those guys could have coached themselves."

O'Brien said Thompson's walkout is particularly effective because he guides one of the country's finest programmes and because he was the 1988 Olympic basketball coach. And while he said he wouldn't take similar action, O'Brien said he agreed with Thompson in principle.

Dozens of coaches around the country agreed with Thompson, expressing their displeasure.

The proposal was approved by the NCAA Wednesday by a 163-154 vote.

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Hands up! Handball is one of the world's fastest growing sports, both in participation and audience, demanding both agility and stamina. Romanian Peter Ivanescu formerly one of the game's most outstanding players and now West Germany's national coach sums up his gritty philosophy for success thus — "I need fighters who are prepared to give everything". The West Germans are pictured here (in the white stripes) trying to find their way through the Yugoslav defenses.

Pele makes his stand

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — Pele, the retired soccer star, was quoted Friday as saying that he quit a government public relations job to avoid "lying" about his country.

Pele, who retired as a player in 1977, last year resigned as goodwill ambassador for the government tourism agency Embratur.

In an interview with the Rio newspaper Jornal Do Brasil, Pele said he had quit because he was embarrassed by reporters' questions about widespread violence and street crime in Brazil.

"I just couldn't go on lying any more," he said.

Pele said the last straw came when Embratur asked him to promote a Brazilian perfume in the United States.

"I was paid to defend Brazil and not to sell perfume," he said.

Pele, who has admitted to politi-

tical ambitions, criticised the government's sluggishness in enacting an economic programme to curb 933-per cent inflation.

"The problem in Brazil is more a moral one. We won't resolve the people's hunger and social injustices with demagoguery," he said.

The three-time former world champion met in Sao Paulo with the Brazilian veterans soccer team that will take part in the II Pele cup for veterans.

Veterans teams from England, West Germany, Italy, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil will participate in the 19-day tournament, which starts Sunday.

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New South Wales Open

Navratilova takes 4th title

SYDNEY (R) — Martina Navratilova gave herself a boost on the road to the Australian Open by winning her fourth New South Wales Open title Sunday, beating Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden 6-2, 6-4 in the women's final.

In the men's final, American Aaron Krickstein, ranked 42nd and seeded 13th in the tournament, broke the American's serve twice in the second set before Navratilova, world number two, broke back three times to take the set and the match.

Now she was at a peak, she said, and as well placed as anyone to take the Australian Open crown from West Germany's Steffi Graf when the tournament starts in Melbourne Monday.

She broke Lindqvist's serve twice in the first set but the Swede lifted her game in the second, pounding a series of backhand and forehand winners.

"Her (Lindqvist's) backhand is the prettiest stroke in women's tennis," Navratilova said. But she described her opponent's first serves as too tentative.

ers in Melbourne a bit different than she has been," Lindqvist added. "She has to serve well to win. Her serve is her biggest strength."

Krickstein, 21, a former world

no. 7 hampered by injuries, now

has won five grand prix titles in his career.

Cherkasov, playing in his

second grand prix tournament and first final, was outclassed by Krickstein.

"Once I got on top of him I felt pretty comfortable. He put up a strong fight in the first set, but when I won that I felt in control," Krickstein said.

"It feels great to win a tournament again. I have had a lot of injury problems and they made things really hard for me," he added. "By winning again I think I have proved I'm still a good player."

The U.S. player locked up the

match and title when he broke to

lead 2-0 in the second set.

A second break of Cherkasov's

serve in the eighth and final game wrapped up the victory.

U.K. cricket yields to apartheid ban

LONDON (AP) — English cricket officials are prepared to ban all players who have future contacts with South Africa in order to avoid the prospect of international isolation.

English trips to India and New Zealand were cancelled this winter because of protests over the ties of a number of team members to South Africa.

TCCB chairman Raman Subba Row said the four-year ban would bring England into line with other cricket-playing nations.

"We still feel our players should be free to play in South Africa as individuals, but we now find the salaries in the past have earned lucrative salaries in South Africa.

The TCCB said Friday it was calling for a ban in order to break off the possibility of even tougher measures expected to be discussed by the international cricket conference at its meeting Jan. 23 in London.

Officials also fear that England, which founded the sport,

Brazilians, Dutch in indoor soccer final

ROTTERDAM (AP) — The Netherlands edged the United States 2-1 and Brazil beat Belgium in a penalty shootout Saturday to reach the final of the inaugural indoor soccer world championship.

Brazil and Belgium were tied 1-1 after regulation play and 3-3 at the end of extra time before Brazil won the shootout 4-3.

Brazil played best throughout the match but found it tough to break Belgium's staunch defense. "On the whole, our win was well deserved," said captain Raul.

The host nation, cheered on by

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Real Madrid draw at Valencia but stay top

VALENCIA (R) — Spanish soccer league champions Real Madrid struggled to force a 1-1 draw at Valencia Saturday, but stayed top of the first division. Real are three points clear of second-placed Barcelona, who could close the gap to one point by beating sixth-from-bottom Malaga Sunday.

Benfica star found with cocaine

LISBON (R) — Benfica midfielder Hernani Neves faces a lengthy ban from soccer following the discovery of traces of cocaine in his urine during a routine post-match test, the Portuguese league leaders said Sunday. The 25-year-old international tested positive after playing in Benfica's 2-0 victory over Sporting last month and a second test on the same sample confirmed the result, club doctor Bernardo Vasconcelos said. "This unfortunate case has nothing to do with banned medical products. The cocaine-based drug involved is taken purely for psychological effects," Vasconcelos said.

Tomba leads after first heat

KITZBUHEL (AP) — Alberto Tomba of Italy took the lead after the first heat of a World Cup slalom race Sunday. Tomba, the Olympic gold medalist in the slalom and giant slalom, went down the course in 52.04 seconds, ahead of Austrian Bernd Gstrein, who finished in 52.27, and West German Armin Bittner's time of 52.59. Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg was fourth in 52.89 and is in position to do well in the combined event, which includes the results of Saturday's downhill, where he was second. His major rival, Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland, nearly fell in his run and was far back finishing the first heat in 55.61.

49ers coach talks of resigning after bowl

SAN JOSE (AP) — San Francisco 49ers coach Bill Walsh has told at least two people he will resign after the Super Bowl, regardless whether his team wins or loses a week from Sunday, a newspaper reported Saturday. A colleague of Walsh and a National Football League head coach, both speaking on condition of anonymity, told the San Jose Mercury News that Walsh told them separately during the past week that he would resign and that his decision was final. Walsh, however, denied he had reached a decision on his coaching future.

Schnieder wins fifth slalom

GRINDELWALD (AP) — Vreni Schneider of Switzerland overcame a spill Sunday and won her fifth World Cup slalom race, keeping her winning streak alive. Schneider, who suffered a slight shoulder dislocation in a spill during an early-morning warmup run, ripped through the second beat to win the race in a total time of one minute, 22.87 seconds.

Peanuts

Dear Sweetheart,
I'd do anything
for you.

I'd climb the
highest mountain.

I'd dog paddle the
deepest ocean.

Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

TIME TO CHANGE HORSES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH	♦ K J 5	♦ 8 4	♦ 10 7 4	♦ Q 10 9 3
WEST	♦ 7 4 3	♦ 9 8	♦ A Q 6	♦ 3 10 9 5 2
EAST	♦ 2 ♠ 4	♦ 3 6	♦ 9 2	♦ 8 6 3
SOUTH	♦ A K J 8 7	♦ 5 4 2	♦ A Q 10 6 2	♦ K 7 3

The bidding:

South: West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♦
If you can see that the enemy won't permit you to adopt your preferred line, don't stubbornly persist with it. Search for a reasonable alternative.

Three no trump by South would have been an ironclad contract as the cards lie. Played by North, however, the defenders would have been able to collect five tricks with the lead of the jack of hearts. It was probably just as well, therefore, that South corrected to four spades, then displayed the necessary skill to bring

out all the table's trumps before declarer could score his ruff.

There was an elegant counter, and declarer found it. He drew all the outstanding trumps, then cashed the ace-queen of diamonds. Next, he overtook the jack of diamonds with the king and led the nine of clubs. When East could not, or did not, cover, declarer refrained from ruffing. Instead, he discarded a low heart, and West was trapped in an endplay. If he cashed the ace of hearts, he would set up declarer's king. If he led a low club, dummy's queen would win. So West tried the ace of clubs. Declarer ruffed, crossed to the table with the ten of diamonds and discarded a heart on the queen of clubs. He lost only one heart trick and two clubs.

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THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"He wrote 'I love you' on the floor with his dirty socks. He's as romantic as he is disgusting."

JUMBLE

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ONLOY

UNFOT

NAPHOR

RAGUTI

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

Answers tomorrow

Answer here:

WENT

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumble: LEGAL MOOSE RAREFY HICcup

Answer: Praise this and you're sure to turn a woman's head—HER PROFILE

Yesterday's

Jumble: LEGAL MOOSE RAREFY HICcup

Answer: Praise this and you're sure to turn a woman's head—HER PROFILE

Uganda wants Amin back

KAMPALA (R) — Uganda is to step up diplomatic pressure for the extradition of former dictator Idi Amin from neighbouring Zaire, government sources said Sunday.

The Kampala government wants to question the deposed leader, who slipped out of exile in Saudi Arabia early this month, about human rights abuses and killings.

Officials say Amin could face charges relating to his eight-year rule from 1971 when hundreds of thousands of Ugandans are estimated to have died in massacres.

Amin flew to Kinshasa from Saudi Arabia, where he had been living in exile since being driven out of Uganda in 1979. Zairean authorities said he used a false Zairean passport to fly there via Nigeria and Gabon.

Zaire refused to allow Amin to enter the country, and flew him to Senegal in a private jet, to enable him to catch a Saudi Arabian flight from there last week.

But Saudi authorities, apparently refusing to accept him back, barred Amin from boarding the plane in Dakar and he was returned to Kinshasa in the Zairean jet.

Zaire says it is looking for a country to take Amin, 61, the former army boxing champion



Yoweri Museveni
who became one of Africa's most ruthless dictators.

African diplomat in Kampala said President Mobutu Sese Seku's government was embarrassed by Amin's arrival there, accompanied by his son, and was placed in a dilemma by Saudi Arabia's apparent refusal to allow him to return to Jeddah.

Uganda's first request last week for Amin's extradition was turned down because there is no extradition treaty with Zaire, government sources said.

But President Yoweri Museveni told reporters Saturday that Uganda would continue to press for Amin's return here.

Officials in Kampala said Uganda wants to put Amin before a government commission inquiring into human rights abuses during his rule.

Witnesses have already told the commission that Amin was personally involved in the murder of Anglican Archbishop Janani Luwum in 1977 and in many massacres.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Tito's widow loses case

BELGRADE (AP) — The widow of late President Josip Broz Tito has lost an appeal for the revision of a Belgrade court ruling over her inheritance, a press report said Saturday. The Belgrade daily Vicerne Novosti said the Supreme Court of Serbia rejected her demand for the revision and instructed her that she could pursue the matter with the Yugoslav state to prove that some of the items of Tito's estate indeed belong to her. Tito died in 1980. Mrs. Broz filed a suit in 1985 to gain from Tito's estate what she claimed were her personal belongings, such as paintings, books, furs, jewelry and furniture. A ruling in 1986 said all Tito's estate was state property.

Ethiopian rebels kill 137

NAIROBI (R) — Ethiopian rebels said Saturday they killed 137 government soldiers and captured four when they attacked an army convoy trying to open a main road in northern Tigray province. The clandestine radio of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), monitored in Nairobi, said the fighting took place Monday near Mekele, capital of Tigray, on the main road to Addis Ababa. The TPLF did not give its own casualties. Earlier this week the TPLF, fighting for autonomy of Tigray, reported similar clashes near Mekele and said 272 government soldiers had been killed.

2 bombs blast in Ireland

BELFAST (AP) — Several soldiers and civilians were injured when bombs exploded in Belfast and Londonderry near military patrols, police said. In the first of two Saturday night attacks, a soldier and two civilians were hurt when a bomb exploded near Duomark Park in a residential section of predominantly Catholic west Belfast, a police spokesman said. One woman was treated for shock at a hospital and released. A man and a soldier were receiving treatment but their injuries were not believed to be serious, said the police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity. The area was cordoned off after the explosion just before 11:00 p.m. (2300 GMT), and experts were examining a second device found in the vicinity, he said, adding that a British army patrol had been in the area during the explosion. The bomb in Londonderry, 110 kilometres northeast of Belfast, exploded at about 11:45 p.m. (2345 GMT) in the city's central business district, said a police spokeswoman.

Tamil children seek asylum

GENEVA (AP) — Swiss authorities registered a sharply higher inflow of 16,726 seekers of political asylum last year, including hundreds of unaccompanied Tamil minors from Sri Lanka, a government spokesman said Friday. Related to Switzerland's total population of 6.5 million, the inflow — marking an increase by 53 per cent over 1987 — was believed to be the largest in Western Europe. West Germany, with a population of 61 million, reported 103,076 asylum seekers last year.

Bomb joker arrested

PHILADELPHIA (R) — A man was arrested at the Philadelphia airport Saturday after making a joke about a bomb as he was buying a ticket, police said. As the unidentified man in his mid-thirties was purchasing a ticket for a Northwest Airlines flight to Minneapolis, he quipped: "I want the window seat away from the bomb," police Sergeant Thomas Harkins said. "He thinks he's a comedian but the ticket attendant doesn't," Harkins said. The attendant called the pilot, who ordered that the plane be searched, Harkins said.

Bye, bye Nancy, hello Barbara

By Jill Lawrence
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The inauguration of George Bush brings much more than a change in government. It's the launch of a whole new look — a look that is prompting sighs of relief among graying women and men's clothing retailers who never met a brown suit they liked.

Barbara Bush is keeping her inaugural outfit a secret, at least until the last minute.

But a few things are certain. Her favourite colour is blue — so farewell to scarlet, the colour so identified with Nancy Reagan that reporters wore it to press conferences in an effort to attract her husband's attention.

Farewell, too, to designer Adolfo, another favourite of Mrs. Reagan. Mrs. Bush prefers Bill Blass and Arnold Scassi, Diane Dickinson and Adele Simpson. She's having several designers put together her inaugural wardrobe.

"There's no doubt in my mind that she'll look spectacular from head to toe, but it will be a different style (from Nancy Reagan)," said Mrs. Bush's spokeswoman, Sondra Haley. "She'll have her own style."

When he takes his oath of office Jan. 20, President-elect Bush will be wearing a business suit — possibly one in dark Oxford gray he purchased within the last two weeks from Arthur A. Adler, a men's store a few blocks from the White House.

Vice President-elect Dan Quayle also bought a couple of suits from Adler last week — one navy blue, the other a navy stripe. "If I were to guess, I would say the solid navy for the swearing-in," said spokeswoman Alie Gien.

Washington's boutiques and department stores are in an inaugural merchandising frenzy, their bunting-draped windows filled with crisp tuxedos, bright full-skirted gowns and sparkling rhinestone evening bags.

Ronald Reagan's penchant for brown didn't do much for Shef-

Moscow takes over Karabakh

Solution seen as gain for Armenians

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet authorities have decided to put the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh under central control after nearly a year of ethnic clashes.

The solution was seen as partly satisfying Armenian demands in their dispute with Azerbaijan over the territory and could remove an impediment to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika programme of economic and political reforms.

A decree issued Saturday and carried by the TASS news agency dissolves local government in the territory, the focus of 11 months of ethnic tension.

At least 78 people have died in Armenia and Azerbaijan and on the Soviet Union's southern fringe. Forty-three were killed in the latest flare-up in November and December and tens of

thousands fled their homes.

The decree, drawn up at a meeting last Thursday of the country's highest state body, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, places Nagorno-Karabakh under the control of a committee responsible to central authorities.

The committee, headed by special Kremlin envoy Arkady Volksy, is to assume full legislative and executive power in addition to controlling virtually all aspects of day-to-day life — industry, administration, education and the media.

Volksy was sent to investigate the situation in the territory last summer and has denounced lead-

ers of both Armenia and Azerbaijan for failing to halt the violence.

The measures, to go into effect Jan. 30, were described as temporary. But the decree did not say how long they would remain in force in the territory, populated mainly by Armenians but run by Azerbaijan since 1923.

Placing Nagorno-Karabakh virtually under Moscow's control was seen as satisfying at least partly Armenian demands, though the territory at least nominally remains a part of Azerbaijan.

After Azerbaijan and then the Kremlin last year rejected Nagorno-Karabakh's calls to be transferred to Armenia, some Armenians suggested the territory

could be run by the Russian Federation, the largest of the 15 Soviet republics.

The decree also empowered Volksy's committee to dissolve public and independent organisations violating Soviet laws or the constitution.

This provision appeared aimed at the Karabakh Committee, which has spearheaded the Armenian demands for the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The strife in the Transcaucasus spilled over into most aspects of Soviet life in the past year and Gorbachev has warned it could adversely affect forthcoming multi-candidate elections — a key element in his reforms.

The Soviet leadership has repe-



Map showing the location of Nagorno-Karabakh between Armenia and Azerbaijan, with surrounding countries like Turkey, Georgia, and Iran.

COLUMN

'Walker policy' backs marriage

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge agreed to lower the bond of a man accused of robbery on condition that he marry his common-law wife and attend church. State district Judge Carl Walker dropped Zaebry Ellis' bond from \$20,000 to \$10,000 and told him he must marry Shawnta Jackson, 18, if his family can raise the money. Walker has taken the action in other cases involving unmarried people who have children. Ellis is the father of two of Jackson's children, ages two and seven months, the judge said. "It's a Walker policy," the judge said later. "If you can father the child, you ought to legitimise the child."

Rwanda garners most tickets

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Rwanda's U.N. mission has five cars that collect more parking tickets per vehicle than any mission in New York, the city parking violations bureau said Friday. Sudan, Bahrain, the Ivory Coast and Seychelles rounded out the list of the top five parking scofflaws, according to bureau figures. The Soviet Union, with 110 vehicles, was not among the top 20 offenders. The U.S. mission does not issue diplomatic plates to its employees, and did not appear on the list. Consular and U.N. diplomats enjoy diplomatic immunity, and cannot be compelled to pay parking tickets. However, the parking violations bureau keeps track of the number of vehicles with diplomatic plates assigned to a country and how many tickets the nation receives each month.

'Friday the 13th' virus strikes

LONDON (AP) — A "Friday the 13th" computer virus struck personal computers in Britain Friday, wiping out program files and annoying businesses, a computer expert said. The 13th day of a month that falls on a Friday is considered unlucky or a bad omen among some communities in some countries. Hundreds of personal computer users found the virus was programmed to delete files Friday the 13th, said Alan Solomon, managing director of S and S Enterprises, a data-recovery centre in Chesham.

Church offers prizes for brighter graves

HELSINKI (R) — Church authorities in Finland, seeking to brighten up graveyards, are offering cash prizes for new designs for tombstones. The Evangelical Lutheran Church said many mass-produced tombstones all took the same. The church is teaming up with an industrial design group to launch a competition to find the best new designs using ceramic, stone, wood or metal.

Six million-knot carpet finished

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A carpet with six million hand-woven knots, believed to be a record number in each centimetre, has been completed in the Iranian city of Tabriz, the Islamic republic news agency reported Saturday. The carpet, measuring one metre by 1.5 metres was made with 800 colours and took two years to complete, said IRNA monitored in Nicosia. The carpet will go on display at the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution next month. The carpet was woven by Tabriz's three Nezami-Doust brothers, who based their design on a miniature painting of the fifth day of creation — the day God created birds, fish and sea monsters, according to the Bible.

Flying mattress whisks man to safety

CRYSTAL LAKE, Illinois (AP) — A flying mattress carried a 79-year-old man to safety as his suburban home was levelled by a natural gas explosion, authorities said. The man said. The incident occurred Thursday morning as James Steurer sat on his bed, putting on shoes in the Chicago suburb of Crystal Lake. Moments later, Steurer recalled afterward, he was still sitting on his bed, when the gas exploded. "I landed outside, picked up my mattress and it was on fire," he said. "What could you think at that point?" "Absolutely I'm lucky," said Steurer as firefighters searched through the remains of his \$50,000 wood-frame home for clues to the cause of the strange occurrence.

Train collision kills 106 in Bangladesh

were involved in the accident, but were uncertain how many were aboard each train because people in south Asia frequently ride on top of or stand between the cars.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known, and the government ordered an investigation.

But one senior railway official said he suspected operators at the Dhaka and Tongi stations were unfamiliar with the signalling system installed Jan. 10.

"Human failure and wrong signalling may have caused the two trains to come on the same track, leading to the collision," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

About 250 army soldiers holding winter military exercises nearby were dispatched to help rescue those trapped inside the wreckage and to help take the injured to hospitals in Dhaka.

"I saw coaches flying up to 15 feet as the collision occurred," said one soldier, who did not want to be identified.

"It was a terrible scene with hundreds of passengers — men, women and children — shouting for help."

Soldiers and rescue workers had recovered 100 bodies, according to a senior railway official, speaking on condition of anonymity. But Communications Secretary Manzurul Karim told reporters at the scene that only 73 bodies had been found.

was so pathetic," he said.

According to police and railway officials, the two trains collided near the Purbali railway station at about 7:30 a.m. (0230 GMT). The passenger train was travelling at about 80 kilometres an hour, while the mail train was coming to a halt, they said.

"There was a big bang," Huq said. "My compartment leaned heavily on the left when suddenly a divine hand stopped it."

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, Communications Minister Anwar Hussain and other top railway and government officials went to the accident scene to supervise the rescue operation.

Violence — biggest challenge to Aquino

MANILA (AP) — Filipinos sat fixated before their television sets last weekend as soldiers stormed a military camp with automatic weapons and rockets — not fighting communist rebels, but renegade police.

Later, the hottest topic of newspaper and broadcast commentaries was a report that hundreds of Uzi machine guns and Galil rifles were being imported into a country already awash with weapons.

The importer wasn't some underground arms merchant, but the Philippines' House of Representatives.

The two episodes underscore the challenge President Corazon Aquino faces trying to build a modern, progressive nation from a country caught in the corrupt, violent ways of the past.

The United States, which maintains six military bases here and is committed to helping build democracy, has a substantial stake in her success.

Last week, U.S. President Ronald Reagan proposed doubling aid to the Philippines to \$64.4 million at a time when assistance to other nations is being held in check or reduced.

But persistent problems in the 165,000-member armed forces were highlighted by the recent

three-day takeover of the regional headquarters of the Philippine Constabulary in Zamboanga City, 900 kilometres south of Manila.

On Jan. 5, about 15 Muslim police and their supporters, angry over plans to charge them in a 1984 killing, seized the garrison, killing the commander and his chief of staff.

The renegades then held out against a furious military assault by nearly 1,000 troops.

By the time the garrison was secured Jan. 7, 21 people were dead, all of them renegades, except for the two military officers slain during the initial takeover.

The general staff headquarters in Manila was gutted during the August 1987 coup attempt by renegade Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Honasan. No major headquarters has been destroyed in clashes with communists or rebels since.

It was the second major garrison destroyed in 18 months during military operations against dissident soldiers or police.

The general staff headquarters in Manila was gutted during the August 1987 coup attempt by renegade Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Honasan. No major headquarters has been destroyed in clashes with communists or rebels since.

The inconclusive result is now viewed by a shocked nation as using a sledge hammer to swat a fly," wrote columnist Jesus Bigornia in the Manila Bulletin newspaper.

The response was Belgium's toughest yet in the two-month-old row. Brussels had previously tried to use diplomatic means to settle the dispute, sparked by Belgian press criticism of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko's alleged corruption and lavish lifestyle.

The response was Belgium's toughest yet in the two-month-old row. Brussels had previously tried to use diplomatic means to settle the dispute, sparked by Belgian press criticism of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko's alleged corruption and lavish lifestyle.

The dispute began after suggestions in the Belgian press that

Mobutu had pocketed some of

the five billion francs (\$10 million) in Belgian aid given annually to the central African country.

Up till now the government

has maintained an exemplary

silence not wanting to do anything